



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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Brooks Officially Opens Seneca Park Zoo's Animal Health and Education Complex

Zoo Society Celebrates Achievement & Patron Support For Facility

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks was joined today by architects, builders, community leaders, Seneca Park Zoo Society officials, and long time patrons of the Zoo when she officiated at the opening ribbon cutting ceremony of the Zoo's new multi-million dollar Animal Health and Education Complex.

"This is a world class facility in the heart of the Zoo," said Brooks. "It is state-of-the art in construction and in purpose. The partnership between the County and the Seneca Park Zoo Society has been tremendously successful and is of great benefit to the community. This Animal Health and Education Complex will provide a critical resource for the education of our young people and will to help promote the various animal health and conservation programs so important to the Zoo's mission."

Construction of the 11,000 square foot building, begun last September, houses educational classrooms, offices and exhibit space, and modern animal medical facilities. The new building will allow the public to view certain medical procedures and learn more about medical care and treatment of animals. The new facility's modern features also help the Zoo meet accreditation requirements for hospital facilities and educational programming as set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's (AZA).

The space within this building will allow the Zoo Society to continue to meet the educational needs of over 40,000 children from a 9 county radius. With the additional classroom space now available, the education portion of the complex will allow classroom study for different age groups at the same time.

"The Board of Trustees has anticipated this day and is satisfied with the results of this pilgrimage," said William Strassburg, President of Chase Pitkin and Board Chair of the Seneca Park Zoo Society. "Our leadership has dedicated countless hours of time and energy to this project, which demonstrates unwavering support of Seneca Park Zoo and a strong commitment to our donors."

“I am pleased that the Seneca Park Zoo Society could provide the funds and leadership, against many odds, to prevail with a much needed education and animal health facility at our Zoo,” said Rachel August, Executive Director of the Zoo Society. “Thank you to all of our corporate, foundation and individual supporters for their patience and faith in this important project.”

Frank Allkofer, Monroe County Parks Director commented, “This new building will be the showcase of the Seneca Park Zoo. The new Animal Health and Education Complex is dynamic and will provide many years of learning and enjoyment for all visitors to the zoo.”

Larry Sorel, Seneca Park Zoo Director noted, “We are thrilled to open this important capital improvement. It adds a new dimension to the quality of medical tools available to us to safeguard and to care for our animal population. It will also greatly enhance the visitor experience at the Zoo.”

Seneca Park Zoo opens at 10 a.m. every day until 5 p.m. (zoo grounds are open until 6 p.m.). Admission prices: \$5.00 – ages 12-62, \$4.00 – age 63+, \$2.00 – ages 3-11 and FREE for ages 2 and younger. Zoo membership entitles you to free admission and many other benefits, so become a zoo member today!

The Seneca Park Zoo is owned and operated by Monroe County. The Seneca Park Zoo Society is a not-for-profit organization that has since 1957, provided education, fundraising, special events and public relations support to Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo. The Zoo is open 364* days each year, closing only on the first Saturday in June for Zoobilation. The Zoo is located at 2222 St. Paul St., one half-mile north of Route 104. For information on Seneca Park Zoo Society membership or other programs, please call (585) 467-WILD (9453) or visit our website at www.senecaparkzoo.org.

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